

REMARKS

Claims 17-31 are pending in the above-identified application upon entry of the present amendments. Claims 1-16 and 32-36 are canceled; claims 17-31 are amended.

Priority Claim

As presently amended, all pending claims are entitled to the claim of priority from 08/021,623, filed February 19, 1993. Accordingly, applicant respectfully traverses the assertion, at para. 2 of the Office action, that the claims are not entitled to such priority, and request that the priority be reinstated for all pending claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 - U.S. Patent 5,556,772 (Sorge et al.)

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of Claims 17-22, 24, 26-27, and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(f) and (g) over U.S. Patent No. 5,556,772 to Sorge et al. (the "'772 reference") because given appropriate priority, the '772 reference is not appropriate prior art to the subject claims. Therefore, rejection is improper and withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 23, 25, 28 and, 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the '772 reference in view of PCT Publication WO 94/26766 to Barnes et al. (the "'766 reference") because, given appropriate priority, the '772 reference and the '766 reference are not appropriate prior art to the subject claims. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of rejections of the claims. It is believed that the claims as currently presented are in a condition for allowance and such favorable action is respectfully requested. If any questions arise or if any issues remain to be resolved, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney.

Applicants enclose a Credit Card payment form in the amount of \$1,020.00 for a three month extension of time fee. Applicants believe there is no other fee due at this time. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

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Respectfully submitted,


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